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## LUCAYAN REMAINS ON THE CAICOS ISLANDS

BY THEODOOR DE BOOY

### INTRODUCTION

THE Caicos islands, originally a part of the Bahamas and governed from Nassau, but now having a more independent system of government under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, consist of a group of islands situated about lat.  $22^{\circ}$ – $21^{\circ}$  N. and long.  $71^{\circ} 30'$ – $72^{\circ} 30'$  W. (see map, fig. 1).<sup>1</sup> The islands are formed of the soft coral limestone common to these regions, and consist of four large cays, four or five of medium size, and a great number of smaller ones ranging in size from one hundred square feet to a mile square. With the exception of the Seal cays, bordering the Caicos Bank on the south side, and French cay on the western limit of the bank, I have been able to find conclusive evidence of pre-Columbian habitation on a majority of the islands: some of the smaller cays of course not being included in this general statement.

Outside of a settlement called Kew, on Grand Caicos, where one can find trees (tamarind and madeira) up to about fifteen inches in diameter, the vegetation on the Caicos islands is extremely small. The coppices never exceed ten feet, and usually are not more than six feet high, and, as throughout the Bahamas, cacti form the prevailing undergrowth. Of this latter variety of the Caicos flora I have occasion to speak feelingly, as one day, while about to pick up a fragment of Lucayan pottery, I fell into a "prickly pear" and it took me the better part of a day to extract the spines. The negro inhabitants grow a little corn on their clearings, and this, together with sweet potatoes and yams, affords their principal food supply. Need I say that the destitution, want, and squalor on some of the islands are beyond imagination?

In spite of the poverty nowadays, one can still see the remains

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<sup>1</sup> Geographically speaking, the Caicos and the Turks islands are always included in the Bahamas.

of former greatness in many places. Before the liberation of the slaves throughout the British West Indies in, I believe, 1838, several large and rich cotton plantations were in existence on these islands. From all accounts (and a negro has a very good memory when it comes to traditions that are handed down to him by his father or

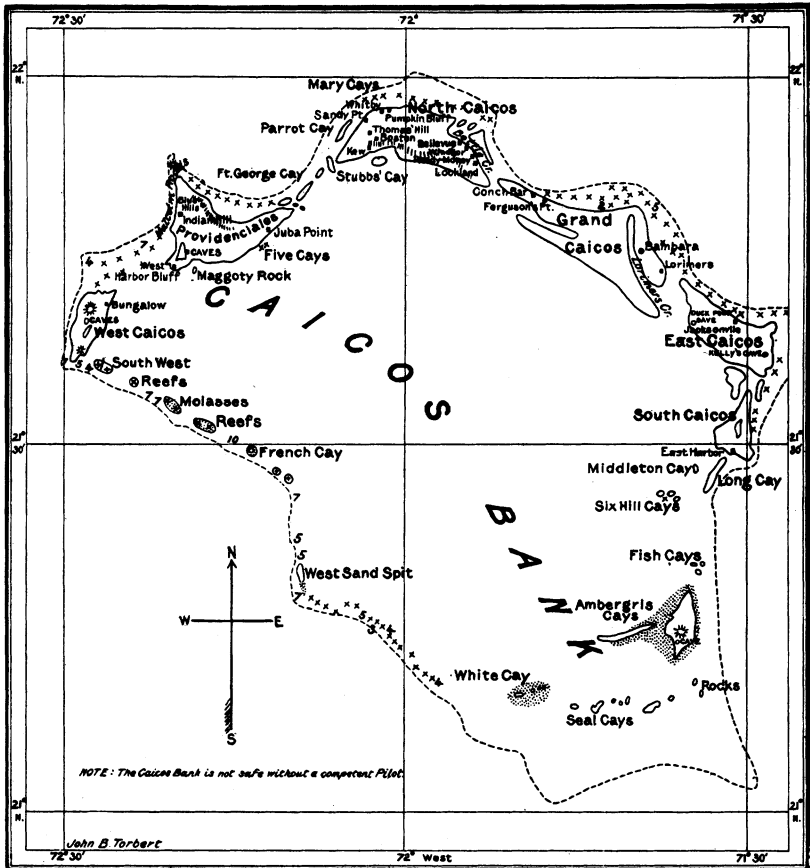


FIG. 1.— Map of Caicos Bank.

grandfather) some of the plantations on Grand Caicos had as many as seven hundred slaves, and I have seen slave quarters, built of solid stone masonry, that could accommodate fully half this number. As mention will be made of the plantations more than once in these pages, I shall not now enlarge on the subject.

At one time the northern side of the Caicos group was a favorite resort for pirates and freebooters. Evidence is not wanting that the various inlets dividing the cays were much deeper in those days, allowing a vessel of twelve-foot draft to pass through them, the small creeks making excellent drydocks in which to overhaul and calk the piratical craft. On the former McIntosh plantation at Bellevue, on Grand Caicos, I came across some fortified terraces overlooking the Lorimer inlet, which, report said, served the purpose of defending the planters in case a landing was planned by the dreaded pirates. One can talk to a Caicos negro for hardly half an hour without hearing some reference made to buried treasure, of which the blacks always seem to know the whereabouts, but which they never attempt to excavate.

A few words may not be amiss about the Caicos Bank. The boundaries of the islands on the bank side, as shown on the charts, are extremely inaccurate, only the general outline of the group being given the true position. This probably is owing to the lack of deep water on the bank proper, which makes it of no interest to the mariner. Inter-island navigation is extremely puzzling, and should never be attempted without the guidance of some competent local pilot: at that, it is not safe to sail by night, as the Caicos Bank has many dangerous shoals which cannot be observed until one is almost on top of them. In going from cay to cay on the northern side (if one has a staunch craft) it is far better to stand outside the reef in good weather, as this does away with the possibility of grounding one's vessel in shoal water and having to wait eight hours for the tide to get released.

Plug tobacco (purchased at the stores on South Caicos) will be found an excellent medium for purchase and barter throughout the cays: I have been able to purchase foodstuffs, curios, the services of laborers and guides, etc., far better with a few plugs of tobacco and some pennies, than I could have done with money of large denomination.

#### THE ANCIENT INHABITANTS

When Columbus first set foot within the New World, it was upon one of the Bahama islands, called Guanahané by the natives whom

he found there. This island Columbus named San Salvador, and it is still known by this name and also by the name Watlings island on British charts. Columbus afterward proceeded to Little and Large Exuma, and on all these visits his accounts of the natives (or Indians as he called them) are the same. Although these people, from all accounts, called themselves Ciboneys, they later received the name "Lucayans," and, as they are generally thus designated, I shall employ the same term.

From the accounts Columbus gave, the Lucayans appeared to be a gentle, peaceable race, unskilled in warfare, possessing no offensive weapons, and of an extremely tractable disposition. They treated Columbus and his followers with the utmost respect and deference, showed as much hospitality as they were able, and did their utmost to welcome the "visitors from Heaven," as they fondly imagined the white men to be.

It is evident that the Lucayans were mostly agriculturists. Acosta, in his history of the Indies, mentions the fact that the Lucayans made cassava bread from both the poisonous and the non-poisonous variety of the yucca, which were cultivated in the fields; and this bread, together with iguanas, fish, and fruit, formed their principal diet. Whether or not in those days large animals existed on these islands is a matter for conjecture: the fact remains that, outside of cattle, swine, horses, and donkeys which have been introduced on the Bahamas by white men, no indigenous mammals now exist, and did not exist in pre-Columbian times, with the exception of a species of dog that never barked and a kind of coney, or rabbit, called *utia* by the natives. And still, I have found more than one vertebra of some large mammal amongst Lucayan material in caves, and also the fang of a boar, which probably had been used for incising pottery, of which mention will be made later. Now, whether or not these bones were brought by the Lucayans from other regions to the Bahamas is a problem I can not solve. Outside of the cultivation of yucca and fruit, the natives also must have grown cotton, as is evident from the fact that Columbus in his diary mentions their bringing balls of cotton for barter and that this seemed to be their most valued possession. Also

they made their "hamackas" (hammocks) of cotton, and it would seem that for this latter invention alone the Lucayans have a claim on posterity.

It was erroneously supposed by Columbus that the Lucayans made a practice of anthropophagy, because, on exploring the huts in which the natives lived, his sailors found dried human remains, such as arms and legs. It was later proved that these were kept from reverential motives and belonged to the ancestors of the occupant of the hut.

The Lucayans were a very cleanly people, taking a swim after each meal, which practice apparently did not produce any ill effect. Also their houses were kept in a remarkable state of cleanliness.

From the skeletal remains that have been found in various parts of the Bahamas, it appears that the Lucayans were of normal height and development, excepting the skull, which, like that of the Flathead Indians of our Northwest, the Aymara of Lake Titicaca, and some other tribes, was artificially flattened in infancy, giving the forehead a very broad appearance. Columbus notes this peculiarity in his diary, and I have observed that this sloping forehead is depicted on the small heads belonging to the rims of earthenware bowls which I have found. Columbus also makes special mention of the handsome appearance of both the men and the women: their skin was copper-colored and their features were extremely regular. The Lucayans were wont to go about naked, the men wearing a headdress of feathers, and some of the women occasionally wearing a small mantle of cotton fiber. It also seemed to be customary for the men to paint their faces to a slight extent.

The dwellings were constructed of branches of trees and interwoven palm leaves, and were built upon some sort of foundation made of coral rock. I have found many of these foundations on the islands. The earth with which they must have been covered has of course disappeared, but I could still find the fragments of pottery and other utensils in great abundance among the stones.

The Lucayans were governed by caciques, who, it seems, were elected by the different tribes, a person being chosen who was exceptionally proficient in feats of strength and endurance. Al-

though this office was not hereditary, the cacique frequently managed to secure the election of one of his sons when he himself became too old to hold office. While monogamy was practised by the Lucayans and their standard of morality was of a fairly high order, the cacique as a rule had several wives, probably owing to his position in the tribe. In this case, however, one of his wives was the principal, and the others appear to have been her helpers more than anything else.

While it is difficult to state exactly what form of religion the Lucayans had, I believe it may safely be assumed that it was the same as that of the other Arawak tribes, some of which still survive in British Guiana. These tribes believe in good and bad spirits; the latter, called *kenaimas*, being responsible for all evil influence, which the *peaiman*, the tribal priest and medicine-man, was instrumental in warding off. The Arawak also believe in a soul, which, they explain, flies away at the time of death, for then they can no longer see the reflection of a person in the pupil of the eye. The *zemes* were inferior deities, acting as messengers for the priests to the omnipotent being inhabiting the sky, in which the natives firmly believed. The caciques kept images of these *zemes* in their huts, and it was no unusual thing for the Lucayans to paint representations of these inferior deities on their bodies at certain festivals.

From the fragments of pottery which I have found, the Lucayans must have reached a high degree of proficiency in the ceramic art. Karl von den Steinen, the eminent German ethnologist, classes the Arawak tribes under the heading "potter-tribes," and this name is particularly appropriate to the Lucayans. Although none of the pottery that I have found is glazed, and none of it is ornamented with coloring, in general outline (and I can only conjecture the shapes, as I was not able to find other than fragmentary pieces) it must have been especially graceful, and the small heads, fastened to the rims of the vessels and probably serving as handles, show a clearness of outline and detail that compares favorably with more modern objects of art. Mention of these pottery fragments will be made later, and some of the illustrations give examples of incised and impressed ornamentation.

In addition to their high development in ceramics, the implements of the Lucayan people show graceful outlines, some of the jadeite chisels particularly being extremely symmetrical in shape. As builders of canoes, also, the Lucayans had few equals: some of these craft seated as many as a hundred people, and the fact that long trips were made in them proves conclusively that they were seaworthy. Another example of the artistic ability of this people is found in the carved stools of quadruped form used by the caciques, one of which is to be found in the United States National Museum at Washington. Navarrete makes mention of these in his *Primer Viage de Colon*.

I have found a great deal of evidence that the Lucayans inhabited many of the caves with which the Bahamas abound. I am inclined to believe that these caves were used primarily as places of worship and secondarily as shelters during hurricanes, and that it was not until the persecution by the Spaniards commenced that the Lucayans began to employ them as permanent abodes. Frequently the mouths of these caves are very hard to find, owing to the dense undergrowth, consequently they would make ideal places of refuge.

It is estimated that when Columbus discovered the Bahamas, the Lucayans numbered about forty thousand souls. Is it not shameful to contemplate that, a quarter of a century after these people first made the white visitors welcome to their islands, not one of them was left to speak of the change the Spanish rule had made in their former peaceful existence? Before dwelling on their extermination by the Spaniards, a few words will not be amiss regarding the origin of the Lucayans.

The Arawak previously mentioned are generally supposed to have come from the Matto Grosso region in the interior of Brazil. It is from this people that the Lucayans originated, after the parent group had migrated from Matto Grosso to the interior and the coast of British Guiana. While it is impossible to make any positive statement, I imagine that it was due to the constant persecution which the peaceful Arawak had to endure from the warlike Caribs that some of the tribes detached themselves and



gradually settled farther north on the Greater and the Lesser Antilles.<sup>1</sup> And even here it seems that they were not safe from oppression by the Caribs, but were forced to journey farther and farther northward until some of the tribes finally settled on the Bahama islands.<sup>2</sup> These then were afterward known as the Lucayans. It is hardly to be believed that this occupancy had been of long duration, for we find that at this time the Caribs were already taking possession of Haiti and waging fierce war on the Arawak tribes living on that island. What conclusion can be more obvious than that the Caribs soon would have crossed over to the more northerly islands in their canoes and have commenced the extermination of the Lucayans that was afterward completed by the Spaniards? And from the fact that the island of Haiti is far richer, more fertile, and better watered than the Bahamas, I believe that the Lucayans settled on the Bahamas only after the Caribs came to Haiti, which event can have been but a short time before the discovery by Columbus.

How the inhabitants fared after the Spaniards took possession of the West Indies is a matter of general knowledge. At first forced to pay a tribute or tax, afterward made to serve as laborers for a certain time, and finally kept in absolute bondage, a people accustomed to spend the greater part of their time in hammocks and working only when it was necessary to cultivate their scanty crops, would, as a matter of course, become speedily exterminated under the stern Spanish rule. The bondage was called the *encomienda*, "protection," which gave a certain number of laborers to each of the Spanish land owners for the cultivation of crops and the working of mines. Considering the average character of the outlaws who went to the New World, it cannot be wondered that this system was a source of abuses, and that the natives, living on the *repartimientos*, or allotments, granted to the followers of Columbus,

<sup>1</sup> The contemporary historians of the Columbian era inform us of the discovery of some islands in the West Indies on which the men and the women spoke different languages. The explanation is simple. The Caribs, having conquered the peaceful Arawak, killed the men and kept the women as captives. This would account for the two languages spoken.

<sup>2</sup> It is now known that some of the Arawak tribes not only navigated as far north as the Bahamas, but even landed and settled in Florida.

were made to work beyond the limits of their endurance. The Arawak tribes at the best were not long-lived: Im Thurn states<sup>1</sup> that he never came across an Arawak exceeding forty years of age. The speedy extermination of these people, when made to do unusual work and to suffer the hardships of the Spanish rule in the West Indies, was therefore a foregone conclusion. Cases are noted in historical records in which a landowner was assigned three hundred laborers, of whom, after three months, only thirty were alive.

Naturally these practices soon made the Lucayans change their minds about the "visitors from Heaven." At first, whenever they saw a Spanish vessel anchor off their island, they would joyfully board the craft, carrying such humble presents as they were able to give, and receive in return hawk-bells and toys, which to them seemed the most wonderful celestial gifts. But when the Spaniards began to go ashore on some of these expeditions, and to capture the men and carry them off to work in the mines of Haiti, it was not long before the Lucayans dreaded the approach of a Spanish vessel and hastened to hide themselves in the caves and underbrush. Even here the natives were not safe, for, tracked by bloodhounds, they were easily captured and carried off, as they had always been peaceful and were not able to offer the slightest resistance.

This, then, is the brief history of the extermination of the Lucayans: the men captured and carried off to work in the mines and die a miserable death; the women left widowed with no men to propagate the race. There is little wonder that after a quarter of a century the Lucayans were extinct.

## RESULTS OF THE EXPLORATION

### ISLAND OF PROVIDENCIALES

*Juba Point.*—Near a cape on the southern coast of Providenciales, called Juba Point, are two caves which, according to the report of my guide and that of the other inhabitants of a small settlement called Kingston, had never before been entered by a white man, except on one occasion, when a guano prospector had

<sup>1</sup> *Among the Indians of Guiana*, London, 1883.

looked into them but had failed to find sufficient guano to make the working of the caves profitable. This was about the year 1880, since which time the caves had not been entered, as the average negro is too superstitious to enter a cave at all, unless accompanied by a white man.

Both the Juba Point caves in all probability lead to a large "ocean-hole," an enormous cavity in the coral rock communicating subterraneously with the sea. In this instance the hole was about three miles inland. Usually these holes contain fresh water which

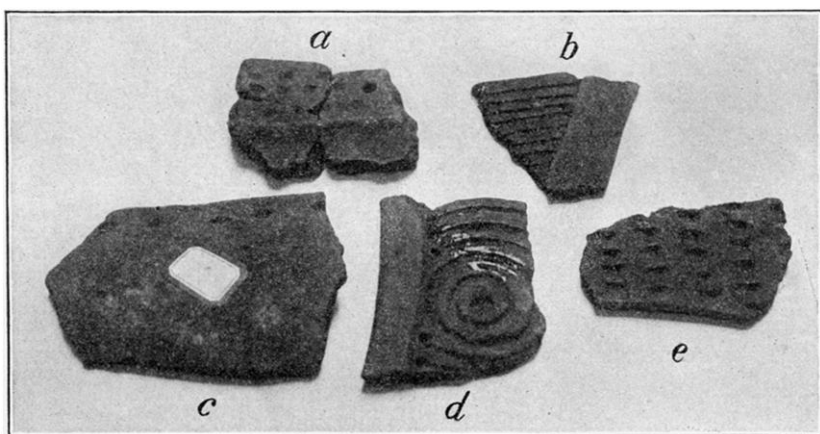


FIG. 2.—Pottery fragments.

rises and falls with the tides. The hole mentioned is fully 100 feet in diameter and about 30 feet deep, while the caves are situated within 200 feet of it.

The mouth of the first cave is about three feet in diameter; the shaft of the cave, ten feet in length, slopes downward at an angle of about 45 degrees and leads into a long chamber, which in turn branches off into two or three smaller ones of no importance. There was some guano in this cave, but careful exploration showed no signs of prehistoric habitation; this was not surprising, however, as access to the main chamber of the cave could be gained only by means of a rope.

There is a small mound outside the mouth of this cave, on which I found a small fragment of incised pottery (fig. 2, *e*).

The second cave has a larger mouth, about ten feet in diameter, a very gradually downward-sloping shaft fully seven feet wide, leading into a large main chamber with two branches, in all probability communicating with the ocean-hole. This main chamber is readily accessible, but unfortunately a great deal of limestone had fallen from the roof of the cave and had covered the floor.

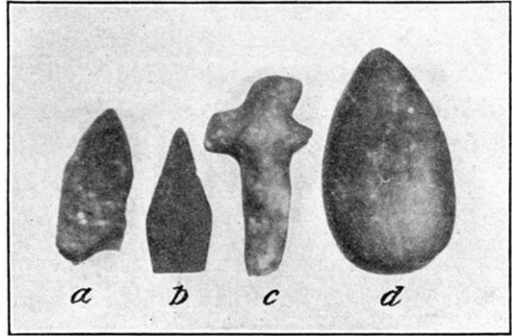


FIG. 3.—Stone implements.

There can be no doubt, however, that this cave was once inhabited, as excavation produced several pieces of charred wood, a few turtle and other bones, some fragments of pottery, and a small jadeite hatchet (fig. 3, *c*). This implement was found, together with some burned wood and two or three conch-shells, beneath about eighteen inches of cave-earth. The majority of the potsherds were

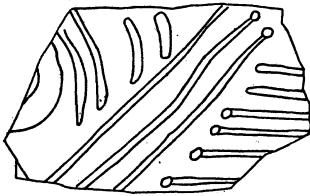


FIG. 4.—Fragment of incised pottery.

of plain ware, but three fragments show ornamentation by incision. One was part of the rim of a large bowl of light reddish-brown clay, decorated with simple straight lines; fig. 4 shows a similar fragment, of dark-brown clay, with straight line incisions and circular impressions; while the third was a fragment of a vessel of dark-gray clay, ornamented with circular impressions. Like the other material found, these sherds, as well as several unornamented ones, were found beneath earth and pieces of limestone coral.

*West Harbour Bluff.*—West Harbour bluff is a cape on the southwestern point of Providenciales, and an open cave is found on the western side of the bluff. This cave is practically open, with two

small protected chambers under the rock. A stretch of beach about twenty feet long leads from the cave to the sea. I found many conch-shells grown in the rocks between the cave and the beach, and this in itself is a sign of Lucayan occupancy. One can always tell a conch-shell opened by a Lucayan, from a more modern one opened by a negro, as the opening by means of which the conch is extracted from the shell is of a different shape and in a different location in the two cases.

The bottom of one of the two chambers in this cave was covered with "cave-earth," and, as throughout these pages mention will be made of this substance, it may be well to explain what it is. Throughout the Bahama islands are a great many coral limestone caves, and in the majority of these is found a species of earth, varying from light gray to dark brown in color, rich in phosphoric acid but containing practically no ammonia. Although this cave-earth is generally spoken of as "guano," from the fact that it contains such a small amount of ammonia it is hardly conceivable that the substance really is excrement, although the natives would have one believe that the bats (of which usually there is a great abundance in the caves) are responsible for the deposits. The cave-earth is deposited on the floor of the caves and in places exceeds four feet in depth.

I commenced excavation in the small chamber, the floor of which was covered with this cave-earth. This was in a rather deep layer, and the material found was practically at the bottom on ground rock. The following objects were found:

Several bones and bone implements, among which were a hoe fashioned out of a turtle-bone; three awls; one or two smaller, pointed bones probably used for ornamenting pottery, and the fang of a boar, probably employed for the same purpose. I also found about ten sherds of unornamented pottery, and three decorated fragments. Fig. 2, *d*, shows a sherd of brown clay with incised and impressed circular ornamentation. Fragment *b* of the same illustration is a part of the rim of a bowl of dark-brown ware and is decorated with incised straight lines. The third incised sherd is too small to be of special interest.

In addition to these fragments, I found a small head (fig. 5, *a*) which evidently had been part of a bowl. It is of light-brown clay, and it is noteworthy that the sloping Lucayan forehead is clearly indicated. I have noticed this peculiarity in all the other heads I have been able to find.

*Indian Hill (Malcolm Roads).*—From reports given me, I have every reason to believe that one could find a great deal of Lucayan material in the vicinity of the "Indian Hill" near the Malcolm Roads on the western coast of Providenciales. At the time I had no opportunity of going there, but as the Caicos negro

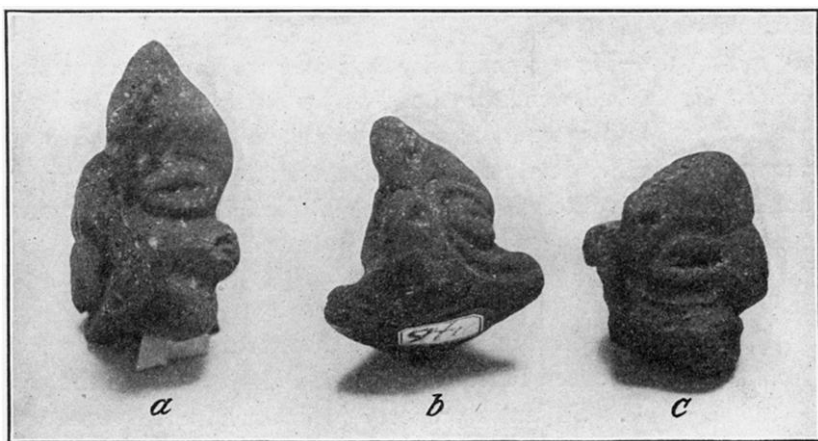


FIG. 5.—Pottery heads.

is too stupid to invent stories of the finding of pottery, etc., I can see no reason why these reports are not to be believed.

*Blue Hills.*—As in the case of "Indian Hill," I was told of the finding of stone implements, or "thunderbolts" as the negroes call them, in the neighborhood of a colored settlement called Blue Hills, on the northern coast of Providenciales.

#### THE AMBERGRIS CAYS

*Ambergris Cay.*—As at Juba Point on Providenciales, there is a large ocean-hole about a mile inland from the southern coast of Ambergris cay, and about six small caves from which underground

passages lead to the hole. These passages, however, are closed, and the only trace of Lucayan habitation that I could find was a conch-shell in the mouth of one of the caves. It is strange that no other traces on the entire island (which is about four miles long and three miles wide) could be found, as it is fairly fertile, has a good beach on the southern and eastern coasts, and would seem to be directly in the track of inter-island navigation. The caves are all small and difficult of access. I could find no mounds on the island, neither on the hills nor on the salina flats.

*Little Ambergris Cay.*—A small sandy cay with excellent well-water and quite a large cocoanut grove, but no traces of previous habitation.

*Fish Cays.*—Three small rocky cays over which the sea breaks continually in bad weather. Landing here was no easy matter, and had to be given up after one or two attempts, as the sea was running too high. It seems to me doubtful, however, whether or not I should have found any evidence of aboriginal occupancy, as even in calm weather landing must have been difficult.

#### NORTH CAICOS ISLAND

*Sandy Point.*—Sandy Point is on the northwestern coast of North Caicos, between Parrot cay and St Mary cays. On the old St James property (which a hundred years ago must have been a splendid cotton plantation and on which one may still see the ruins of a magnificent house and driveway) I found one cave with two mouths, both of which lead into the main chamber. Here I found the usual deposit of cave-earth on the floor, and on excavating in one or two places, directly under a spot where the roof of the cave was smoked as if cooking had been done there at one time, I found one or two bones (presumably of a large green turtle), one sherd of incised pottery, five or six sherds of unornamented pottery, one brown flint hatchet-head, and one highly polished black flint chisel with cut-

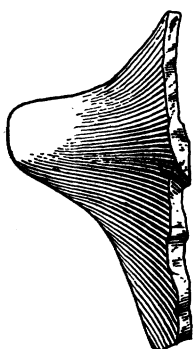


FIG. 6.—Pottery fragment showing handle.

ting-edge. This chisel is one of the most symmetrical and beautiful prehistoric stone implements known to me. The pottery fragment is part of a reddish-brown clay bowl with one of the lugs, or handles, attached.

It is to be regretted that on the Caicos islands, owing to the climatic conditions and to the rocky soil, pottery and other prehistoric objects have so slender a chance of being preserved in their entirety.

*Pumpkin Bluff.*—This bluff lies between Sandy Point and the mouth of Bottle creek (of which mention will be made later) on the north coast of North Caicos. Some 50 yards due east of the bluff



FIG. 7.—Fragment of Lucayan bowl.

proper is a cave with a single chamber, where I succeeded in finding an exceptionally fine fragment of a bowl of light-brown clay. The diameter of this vessel was about ten inches, and the bowl cannot have been more than one inch high (fig. 7). The forehead of the small head, as usual, has a perceptible slope. I also found the usual turtle and other bones, and a few unornamented pottery fragments. All this material, as usual, was covered with a heavy deposit of cave-earth. The rest of the cave had been filled with a considerable amount of sea-sand which must have washed in during northern storms.

*Whitby.*—This settlement derives its name from the old plantation in the vicinity, the ruins of which may still be seen. I could



find no trace here of Lucayan occupancy, although I heard afterward that some of the natives knew of a field in the neighborhood where potsherds had been found. I had no time then to return, but succeeded in obtaining a fairly good specimen of Indian imple-

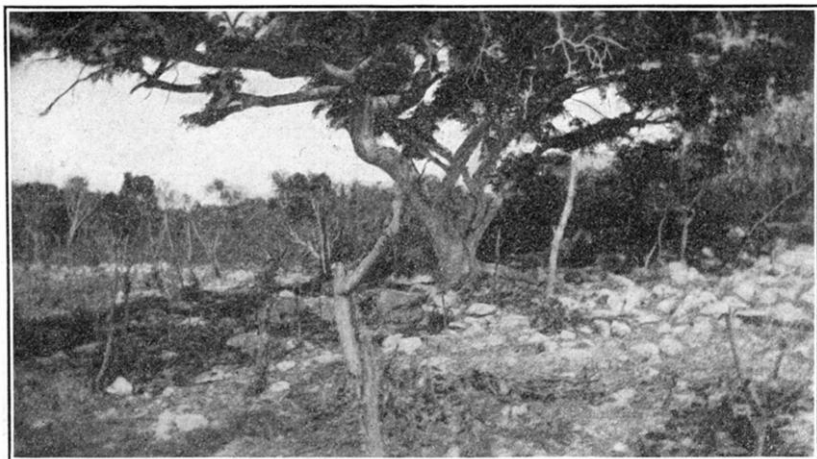


FIG. 8.—Clearing at "Mountain".

ment, made of jadeite and quite well polished. Whitby lies about a quarter of a mile inland and one mile east of Pumpkin Bluff.

*Bottle Creek.*—Bottle creek is a sea inlet dividing North Caicos from Grand Caicos. The creek proper has several settlements on it, all on the west side, and allows a vessel drawing not more than three feet of water to enter through the northern mouth. The southern mouth, however, leading to the Caicos Bank, is fit for small row-boats only, and even then only at high water. Bottle creek at one time was a favorite location for large plantations, and there still are many negro settlements along its banks which derive their names from these. Many of the old plantations show traces of having been fortified against pirates, which at one time were plentiful along the northern coast of the Caicos islands and which used Bottle Creek inlet (in those days considerably deeper than now) as a convenient place for overhauling their craft.

The most northerly settlement, called Bellevue, consists of the

old McIntosh and Mountain plantations. The former place is about six miles from the northern coast, and the Mountain plantation is situated two miles inland, communicating by means of a carriage road with Bellevue proper. On "Mountain," the original clearing of the Lucayans can still be plainly seen (fig. 8). There are several mounds on these clearings, on which evidently the original inhabitants built their huts and shelter places. The sand with which the stones of these mounds must have been covered has of course been blown away, but one can still find many indications, such as broken cooking utensils, ashes, and animal-bones, that these mounds were used for no other purpose. In the mound shown in fig. 9 I found four fragments of pottery with ornamentation, seventeen fragments of plain pottery, and one hammer-head. Fig. 2, *c*, shows part of the rim of a vessel of brown clay with incised decoration. Fig. 10 shows part of the incurving rim of a dark-gray bowl



FIG. 9.—Excavating a mound.

with incised decoration, and fig. 11 a part of the flaring rim and neck of a dark-gray vessel with impressed ornamentation. Fig. 2, *a*, shows an impressed ornamentation and a hole through which a grass-rope handle could be strung.

I heard many reports of other findings on the range of hills west of Bellevue, and believe there can be no doubt that these hills were extensively used as a camping-ground by the Lucayans. Caves are found in great numbers on North Caicos, and with time and sufficient means, many important finds could be made in this neighborhood.

Another settlement, called Windsor, on Bottle creek, lies about a mile south of Bellevue. Two miles inland from this place I found another Lucayan clearing, but succeeded in finding only two ornamented sherds, both with diagonal incisions, and about eight fragments of plain earthenware. This clearing was on a hill, called Tommy Hill by the negroes, and one negress told me of finding a practically entire pot there at one time. She had, unfortunately,

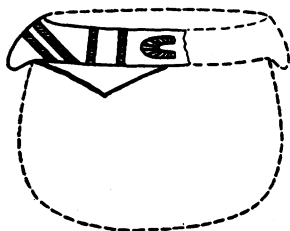


FIG. 10.—Fragment of rim of vessel.

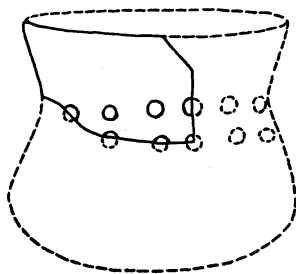
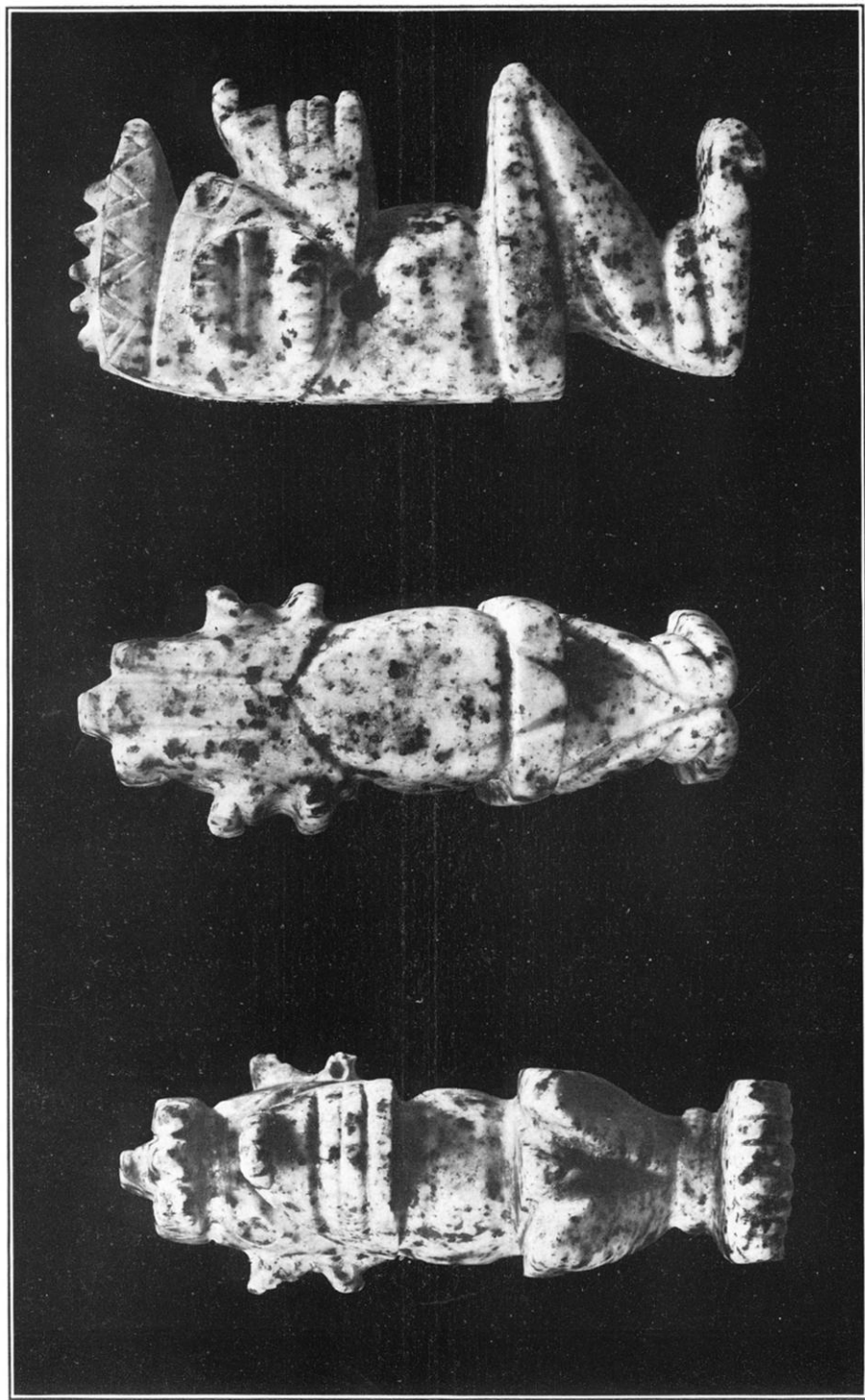


FIG. 11.—Fragment of rim and neck.

given this to her baby to play with, of course with the result that by the time I came it could no longer be found. I have noted throughout the Caicos islands that the present inhabitants take absolutely no interest in their predecessors, and beyond valuing the occasional stone implement they find as a preventive against thunder and lightning, of which they are mortally afraid, they attach no value whatsoever to any specimen of pottery found in their fields, and indeed seem to take delight in breaking up every piece they come across.

I heard further reports of pottery and implements found on the range of hills back of Bellevue and Windsor, particularly in the neighborhood of two settlements called Ready Money and Lock-land. The negroes never go inland, as their fields are all within a



STONE IDOL FROM NORTH CAICOS

mile of Bottle creek and their fish is obtained from the sea; consequently, beyond speaking of caves (which they firmly believe are haunted) and mounds, they know nothing about the interior of North Caicos. The only settlement in the interior is called Kew, formerly the seat of government of the Caicos islands, with the ruins of official buildings, a large sugar-factory, and several plantations.

*Kew.*—As mentioned before, Kew is the most fertile spot on the Caicos islands, and the only place where one may find trees of any considerable size. The settlement consists of about fifty houses, with 300 inhabitants, the latter subsisting on corn and sweet potatoes. I could find no actual traces of Lucayan habitation around here, but acquired one fragment of a stone implement from an old negress. This implement is made of a species of dark-green jadeite, but I cannot determine to what use it was put.

Some few years ago a very interesting stone idol was found in the neighborhood of the Kew settlement. Plate VI shows three views of this idol, which I was not able to acquire, and for the photographs of which I am indebted to Mr J. S. Cameron, owner of the East Caicos sisal plantation. It is curious to note the pierced ears and the manner in which the feather headdress is represented.

Information points to the southern border of St Thomas' Hill, in the neighborhood of Sandy Point, as a likely place for finding Lucayan material; also to a place called Boston, northeast of Kew, where some caves are said to be, in the neighborhood of which several fragments of pottery have been found.

#### GRAND CAICOS ISLAND

*Ferguson's Point.*—There are two small caves at Ferguson's Point on the northern coast of Grand Caicos. These caves are easy of access, but I could find no evidence that they had been inhabited.

*Conch Bar.*—Conch Bar is another settlement on the northern coast of Grand Caicos, one mile west of Ferguson's Point. Here there are several caves that about thirty years ago were worked for the cave-earth they contained. It is evident that a tribe of Luca-

yans must have inhabited these regions, as I heard of several articles that had been found at the time of the guano digging. My guide told me that he knew of two small wooden stools, several skeletal remains (which were thrown away through the stupidity of the negroes), and some crude bedsteads made of forked sticks and boughs, being found there when the cave-earth was removed. The caves have been so thoroughly emptied of all the earth that was in them, leaving nothing but the bare rock, that I was able to find no material at all. These caves all have great beauty, are easy to enter, and must have been excellent shelters and dwellings, as it is no rare occurrence to find small fresh-water lakes in them. The Conch Bar caves are the largest ones on the Caicos islands and continue underground for great distances. The "Village Cave" has several mouths, and there is yet another cave close by called the "Orange Tree Cave."

From all indications I would again state that one should be able to find much material on the hills of several of the Caicos islands. While going about I continually heard of negroes finding potsherds on their occasional trips to the interior; but as I was not prepared to stay away from the coast during the night, having to sleep aboard the craft that was taking me around the islands, I could at the time not go more than four or five miles inland. With time and means it would be an easy matter to take two or three bearers and make a prolonged stay in the interior.

In the neighborhood of Conch Bar is a hill, called Dead Man's Skull Bluff, on the crest of which is another clearing. Here I found two sherds of ornamented pottery of no especial interest, and about ten fragments of plain earthenware. These fragments, together with some turtle-bones and ashes, were found in a kind of mound that was there.

*Lorimers.*—Lorimers is another settlement, three and a half miles inland from Big Landing on the northern coast of Grand Caicos. It is situated on Lorimers creek, dividing Grand Caicos and East Caicos, but this inlet is too shoal for navigation other than by rowboat. There is no northern mouth to Lorimers creek, as it really is only an inlet of Caicos Bank.

About four miles southwest of the Lorimer settlement, on the salina, and overgrown with guinea-grass during the greater part of the year, is found a large number of Indian mounds—not burial places as might be supposed, but evidently erected as a shelter against the water on the salina and as a foundation upon which to build huts. These mounds average three feet high, eight feet wide, and about twelve feet long, and are built of pieces of coral rock. As a rule the mounds are arranged in a crescent, with not more than six mounds in the group (fig. 12).

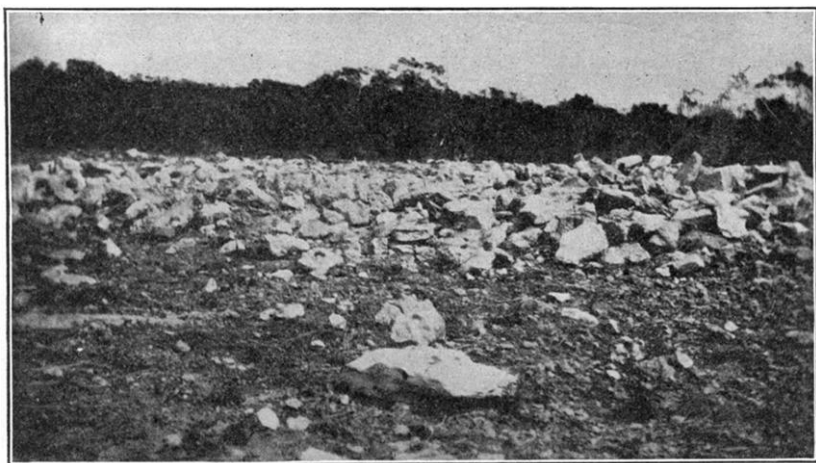


FIG. 12.—Lucayan mounds.

I found five fragments of ornamented pottery, one stone knife of very dark-green jadeite with a cutting edge and highly polished (fig. 3, *b*), and on which can be seen two small nicks by which to secure a lashing, and twelve unornamented potsherds on and around the mounds. One of these fragments is part of a large dark-brown bowl with incurving rim and impressed ornamentation. In this instance the ornamentation consists of a V-shaped figure which may or may not have been a crude effort to represent a bird (fig. 13). I have found the same type of ornamentation on other fragments at different places on the Caicos islands. Another sherd is a part of the rim of a light-brown bowl with stamped circular ornamentation (fig. 14).

In addition to these mounds on the salina flats, there are two hills, about two miles north of the Lorimer settlement, called Gamble Hill and Indian Hill. On both I found mounds, although, while there were some eight or ten on Gamble Hill, I could find only



FIG. 13.—Fragment of decorated pottery.

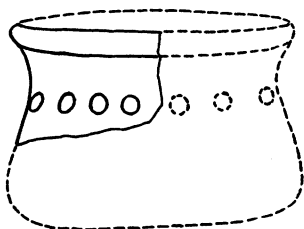


FIG. 14.—Sherd with circular decoration.

two in the brush on Indian Hill. Two ornamented sherds were found on Gamble Hill, one of which is of special interest, as the ornamentation consists of strips of clay laid over each other in regular pattern (fig. 15). I also found eight unmarked fragments here, while on Indian Hill I found three ornamented sherds and three plain fragments. These last six sherds are worthy of note as they plainly are of greater antiquity than any of the other pottery I have found on the Caicos islands, and the ornamentation of three of them is of the crudest, consisting merely of straight-line incisions without definite pattern. I also found one exceptionally

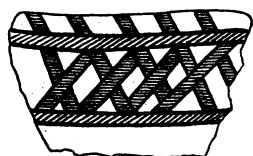


FIG. 15.—Sherd with pattern overlaid in clay.

large stone implement of green jadeite (fig. 3, *d*).

There also are two caves within a mile of Lorimers, called Dark Night Well cave and Banana Tree cave. Although an old negro told me that he had once found an entire bowl in the Banana Tree cave, I found on going there that the mouth of the cave had fallen in and was closed, and that it would take two men an entire day to open it again. I could find no trace of previous habitation in the Dark Night Well cave.

*Bambara.*—This is another Grand Caicos settlement, within four miles of Lorimers. Report spoke of stone implements and pottery



fragments being found in this neighborhood, but as my time was limited I could not go there.

#### EAST CAICOS ISLAND

*Jacksonville.*—The settlement of Jacksonville, on the northern coast of East Caicos, now consists of a sisal plantation of 3,000 acres belonging to the East Caicos Sisal Company, Ltd. There are



FIG. 16.—Petroglyphs in cave at Jacksonville.

several caves on this property, from which, about twenty years ago, large quantities of phosphates (cave-earth) were shipped, principally from what is known as the "Old No. 1" and the "No. 2" caves. It is said that when these excavations were commenced, several skeletons were found, also various artifacts, including a wooden stool and a platter. These two caves, however, have been so thoroughly emptied of earth that I could find nothing but bed-rock, and the same condition prevails in the "New No. 1" cave, from which also large quantities of cave-earth have been removed. It

was in this cave that I found unmistakable evidence that the main chamber had been used either as a place of worship or as a council-chamber. Various petroglyphs are found on the walls, notably those shown in the accompanying illustration (fig. 16), which are in the main chamber.

There also was a large stone in the main chamber which evidently had been cut into a rude semblance of a couch or altar; fig. 16, *d*, was cut on the roof of the cave directly over this stone. The carving of all these figures was partly obliterated, but figures *c* and *e* were most distinct. In addition to these petroglyphs there was a head, slightly larger than life-size, cut out in the rock of the main



FIG. 17.—Profile of rock and gargoyle-like figure cut therein. (The head was carved at X.)



FIG. 18.—Outline of stone fetish.

chamber, like a gargoyle (fig. 17). The drawings of the above petroglyphs are all about one-sixth of their actual size.

There is another cave on the Jacksonville property on Flamingo Hill. I could find nothing of interest in this cave; but this is scarcely to be wondered at, as the shaft of the cave runs down perpendicularly for about twenty feet. There are the usual mounds on Flamingo Hill, about eight in number, in one of which I found a small stone fetish (fig. 18), three small fragments of ornamented pottery of no especial interest, and a fragment of a stone implement of light-green jadeite (fig. 3, *a*).

Around and on another mound I found a small head belonging to the rim of a bowl (fig. 5, *c*); four sherds of ornamented pottery; about fifteen plain fragments; a jadeite chisel, highly polished, with a cutting edge; and a black flint scraper, also highly polished and with a cutting edge.

Another small pottery head (fig. 5, *b*), which has been lent to me, also was found on the Jacksonville property. This head evidently was meant to represent some animal, and I can not say whether the fact of its having no left eye is by accident or design. A small, highly polished jadeite scraper was also found here.

*Kelly's Cave (Sail Rock).*—According to report finds have been made here, but I had no opportunity to visit the spot.

*Duck Pond Cave (Goodshill Settlement).*—Here also pottery fragments and implements have been reported to occur. The Goodshill settlement is on the southwestern coast of East Caicos and about ten miles from Jacksonville.

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